Many groups focus safety attention on the rail/ highway grade crossing. The concern lies mainly in the likelihood of a train/ vehicle accident being very severe. When a train hits a car, it has the same affect as if a car were to run over a pop can. A train may need over one mile to stop, even with the breaks applied in the emergency mode. Remember also that a train can't swerve to avoid a collision. Combine these factors, and its easy to see why so many people are concerned with grade crossing safety.

Below are a few of the important safety items to keep in mind whenever you need to cross the tracks.

1. **Don't trespass.** This may seem obvious, but too many people are observed every day walking along the tracks. Railroad tracks are private property.

2. **Never stop on the tracks.** For whatever reason, too many drivers stop on the tracks and then are struck there as a train approaches.

3. **Listen for the train horn.** Under Federal law, train engineers are required to sound their horn prior to each and every grade crossing. Turn down your car radio, roll down a window and listen for the train.

4. **Expect a train at any time.** Most trains operate on an as needed basis. That means there is no way to predict when a train might be at a grade crossing. By always expecting the train, you'll keep yourself and those with you safe.

5. **Watch out for the second train.** There can be a second train following the first, or traveling in the opposite direction. Never enter the crossing until you are certain no other train is approaching.

6**. Don't try to beat the train.** To many drivers misjudge the speed of a train, only to find out too late. Remember, its better to stop and wait for the train, than be injured or killed for the sake of a couple seconds.

7. Stop at all flashing railroad crossing lights. Flashing red lights at a grade crossing carry the same meaning as a STOP sign. Law requires drivers to come to a full stop, and to proceed only if a train is not present.